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Gc 978.301 C15a
Fiftieth anniversary 1908-
1958, Artas Reformed

Fiftieth Anniversary



1908--1958

Artas Reformed Church

Artas, South Dakota

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

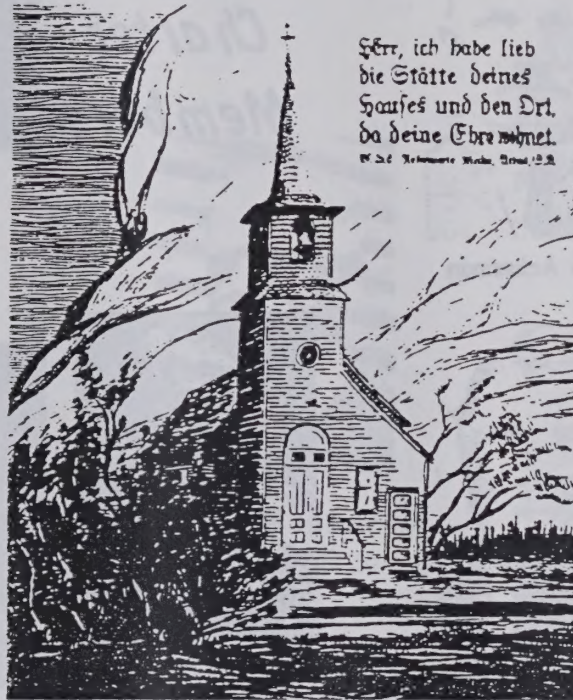
Fiftieth Anniversary



1903-1953

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*50th Anniversary Celebration
of the Dedication of
Artas Reformed Church*



*Artas, South Dakota
June 22, 1958*

Anniversary Services

10:00 A. M., ENGLISH SERVICE

Rev. J. Cooper, Reformed Church, Ashley, N. D., Speaker

2:30 P. M., GERMAN SERVICE

Rev. D. E. Bosma, Reformed Church, Eureka, S. D., Speaker

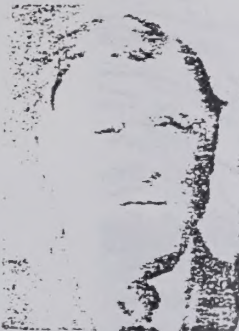


Andrew Ackerman

Charter Members



Johannes Delzer



George Kusler, Sr.



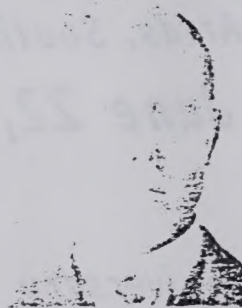
Jacob Bentz



George Kusler, Jr.



Jacob Orth



David Kauk



Jacob Bollinger



George Fuehrer



George Brunmeier



Bernhardt Kauk

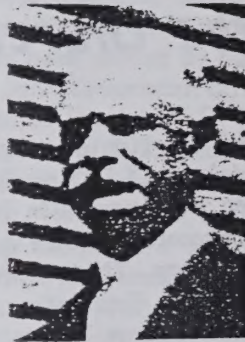
Ministers



Rev. M. Nuss
1909-1920



Rev. E. G. Pfeifer
1941-1942



Rev. F. A. Rittershaus
1931-1935



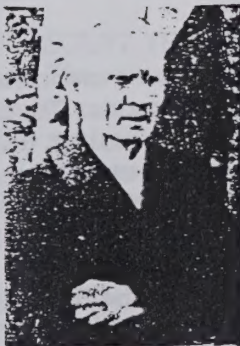
Rev. J. Grossmann
1921-1924



Rev. Fritz Lierhaus
1952-1954



Rev. Otto Hoffner
1937-1940



Rev. Karl H. Thiele
1927-1930

(Not Pictured)
Rev. O. G. Schmidt



Rev. N. C. Hoeflinger
1955—

History of the Church

IN THE FIRST YEARS of the 20th century there were a number of Reformed Churches in the vicinity of Artas, S.D. However, there was no church in the community of Artas itself, which was founded in 1901. In the fall of 1906 eleven men from the area, who were members of these surrounding Reformed churches, laid the plans for a church in Artas. These eleven were Andrew Ackerman, Jacob Bentz, Jacob Bollinger, George Brunmeier, Johannes Delzer, George Fuehrer, Bernhardt Kauk, David Kauk, George Kusler, Sr., George Kusler, Jr., and Jacob Orth. At first, services were held in a small schoolhouse in Artas. Rev. W.B. Wittenberg of the Odessa Reformed Charge, who lived in the parsonage already in Artas, served the congregation. In the spring of 1907 the congregation incorporated and on May 20th of that year it was received into the Odessa Charge. The first consistory consisted of Mr. Jacob Bollinger as elder and Mr. George Fuehrer as deacon.

Under the direction of a building committee composed of Jacob Bentz, Jacob Orth and Johannes Delzer, work commenced on a church building that spring. The materials were all hauled in by the members, and Mr. George Bohle of Artas was engaged as the builder. He was also building the Baptist Church and some other buildings in Artas at the same time. Therefore the church was not completed until the spring of 1908 when it was dedicated. Rev. F.A. Rittershaus was the dedication speaker. So then in 1958, we are rightly celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our church building.

FOLLOWING THE DEDICATION there was a rapid growth in the membership of the church. A number of young couples soon joined the congregation. The first of these were Mr. and Mrs. Christ Kauk, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kusler, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fuehrer. Mr. and Mrs. Christ Kauk were the first to be married in the new church. The wedding was held December 15, 1907 before the church was completed. On July 10, 1909, Mr. Karl Bollinger was laid to rest from the Artas Church, the first funeral to be conducted there.

In the summer of 1909 the Odessa Charge extended a call to the Rev. Michael Nuss, then serving Tripp, S.D. Rev. Nuss accepted the call and arrived in Artas on Nov. 1, 1909. He held the longest pastorate in Artas, and saw the blessing of God on his labors in an ever increasing congregation. The congregation grew to as

many as 45 families. Pastor Nuss served in Artas until the fall of 1918 when he left for California. However, after a year, he returned to Artas where he served another year until his retirement to Tripp, S.D. in the fall of 1920.

THE FIRST CONFIRMATION was held in Artas in 1910 by Pastor Nuss. In this class were two of the present consistory members, Elder Calvin Ackerman and Deacon Fred G. Orth. Also in 1910 the first organ and the bell were added to the church building. A new parsonage was built in Artas the same year. In 1909 George Fuehrer was elected to the office of Elder. He held this office for the remainder of his life. Other elders who have faithfully served the congregation are Peter Schmidt, Jacob Kost, Henry Jahraus, Calvin Ackerman and Christ Kauk. The first Sunday school superintendent was Mr. Andrew Ackerman.

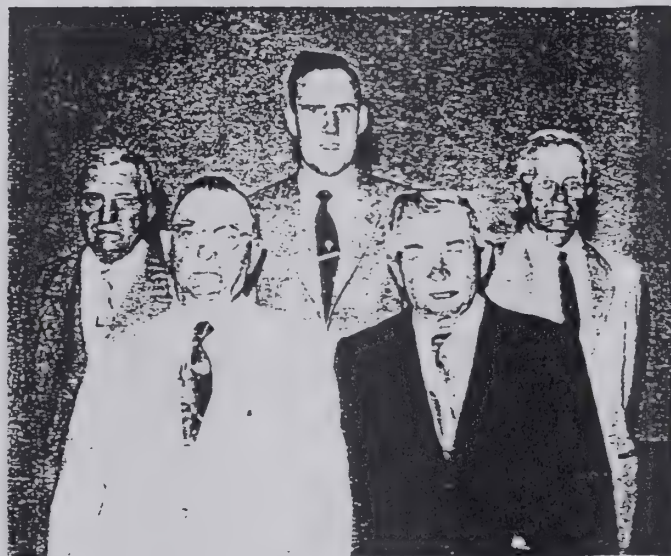
The Artas Congregation has been served by the following ministers since Rev. M. Nuss. In June 1921 Rev. John Grossmann arrived in Artas and remained until September 1924 when he went to Herrick, S.D. Rev. O.G. Schmidt spent a brief ministry in Artas, from the summer of 1925 until December of 1926 after which he left the Reformed ministry. From October 1927 to November 1930 Rev. Karl H. Thiel served the congregation. He returned to Germany following a brief stay at Java, S.D. In 1931 the charge extended a call to the Rev. F.A. Rittershaus of Streeter, N.D., who had served in the Menno, S.D. Reformed Church for 30 years. To the joy of the congregation Rev. Rittershaus accepted the call and came to Artas in December of 1931. His ministry ended suddenly August 30, 1935 when he unexpectedly passed away while visiting Menno. Rev. Otto Hoffner came to Artas from Lennox, S.D. in June of 1937. His pastorate ended December 1940. For the year 1941-42 the Rev. E.G. Pfeifer served the congregation after which he preached for a year in Herreid and then retired to Aberdeen where he died shortly thereafter.

After a vacancy extending for ten years Candidate Fritz Lierhaus came to Artas from Germany and was ordained to the Christian ministry and installed in the Odessa Charge on September 28, 1952. His ministry and life were cut short by a tragic traffic accident that occurred near Rapid City, S.D. while he was on a trip to the Black Hills on September 14, 1954. The present pastor, Norman C. Hoeflinger, arrived in Artas from Philadelphia, Pa. in mid-June 1955 following his graduation from Westminster Theological Seminary. He was ordained and installed on August 14, 1955.

IN RECENT YEARS the congregation has made many improvements on its properties. The parsonage was remodeled and moved on a new basement in 1952. In 1953 the church was also put on a basement and was completely redecorated for the 50th anniversary of the church.

Two sons of the Artas congregation have answered the call to the Reformed ministry, Rev. Carl Fried of Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin and Rev. Walter Grossman who was suddenly taken from this life in September of 1956 at Shafter, California.

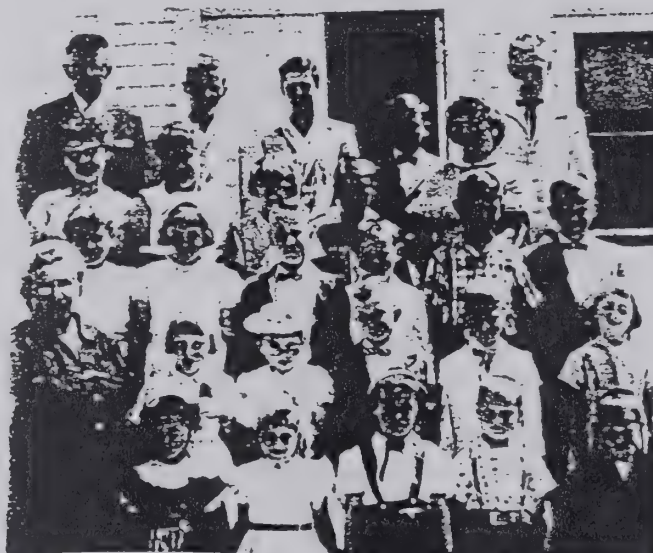
"What hath God wrought!" It is only by His continuing grace that we have arrived at this day. May we render our thanks unto Him and bless His name. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it:" Ps. 127:1. Truly then, let us wait upon the Lord, for our labor is not in vain in the Lord.



The Present Consistory

Front Row (from the left)— Elders, Christ Kauk and Calvin Ackerman.

Back Row— Deacons, Fred G. Orth, Rev. Norman C. Hoeflinger and John Fuehrer.



The Sunday School

Teachers— Front row (left) Mrs. Christ Kaut.
Back Row (left)— Supt. Raymond Bentz. (Second from right)— Mrs. Calvin Fuehrer.



The Choir

Front Row (from the left)—Mrs. N.C. Hoefflinger, Mrs. Ervin Orth, Mrs. Albert Delzer, Mrs. Milton Ochsner, Mrs. Esther Ackerman.

Middle Row—Mrs. Raymond Bentz, Mrs. Calvin Bentz, Mrs. Eugene Ackerman, Mrs. Christ Bentz, Mrs. Alfred Bentz.

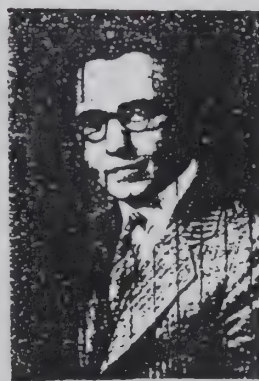
Back Row—Milton Ochsner, Leo Ackerman, Raymond Bentz, Ervin Orth.

SONS OF THE
CONGREGATION
WHO ENTERED
THE MINISTRY



REV. WALTER GROSSMAN

Died in California
September, 1956



REV. CARL FRIED

Elkhart Lake, Wis.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Church Membership, 1958

The following with their families constitute the present membership of Artas Reformed Church.

Ackerman, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin
Ackerman, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest
Ackerman, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene
Ackerman, Mr. and Mrs. William
Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Edward
Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd
Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Ruben
Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred
Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin
Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Christ
Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer
Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Henry
Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond
Brunmeier, Mrs. Martha
Delzer, Mr. and Mrs. Albert
Fried, Mrs. Lydia
Fuehrer, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin
Fuehrer, Mr. and Mrs. John
Kauk, Mr. and Mrs. Christ
Kauk, Mr. and Mrs. Gust
Kauk, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar
Kautz, Mrs. Rose
Kusler, Mrs. Elizabeth
Ochsner, Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel P.
Ochsner, Mr. and Mrs. Milton
Ochsner, Mr. William
Orth, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin
Orth, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin
Orth, Mr. and Mrs. Fred
Orth, Mr. and Mrs. Fred G.
Orth, Mr. and Mrs. Henry
Orth, Mr. and Mrs. Henry H.
Orth, Mr. and Mrs. George
Trautman, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar



